In the southern side most of the people are rich and they do not go to the Ayurvedic Hospital or the General Hospital. They have their own family physicians. From that point of argument also it is better to have it on the northern side on a suitable site. I moved this cut for improving the Ayurvedic Hospital. I have no ideas to censor the Minister. I am no party man and owe allegiaince to nobody. If the House is willing to give me permission to withdraw my motion I do not wish to press it.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn

Demand under 24 Ayurveda

put and carried

8. Excise—Rs. 2,35,208

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for an allotment of Rs. 2,35,208 under "8 Excise". There are only 2 features of the Excise Budget which seem to require a short explanation. One is the abnormal rise in the receipts anticipated next year. I want to assure the House that this is not due to any change whatsoever in the Excise policy of the Government, namely, temperance and gradual prohibition. This rise is solely due to certain abnormal conditions resulting from the present war situation. Now, is this rise peculiar to Cochin alone? We find that in Travancore the receipts under Excise Revenue have risen to 200 per cent whereas here the rise is less than 100 per cent. In fact this rise is solely due to the improvement in the economic position of the masses. It has considerably improved.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Question.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I hope this House will admit that as a result of the influx of large amounts into the State from those who are now working in the various military undertakings outside the State and also from *those large number of men* who are employed as labourers in Assam and Ceylon the economic condition has definitely improved. This rise is therefore only the natural outcome of the improvement in the present economic condition of the masses. Government have not exerted in the least to raise the receipts under Excise in any manner. They still stick to their policy of gradual prohibition.

The next point I wish to explain is about salt manufacture undertaken by the Government. It may be interesting for the House to know its history. Government got down an officer from the Madras Service in 1117 to make certain preliminary investigations. After conducting the survey, he submitted a report to the Government to the effect that there was immense possibility for undertaking the manufacture of salt in the State. So, in 1118 and 1119 experimental operations were carried out in about 20 acres of land. The results are on the whole encouraging. Therefore we have now made a provision of about Rs. 43,000 and odd in the 1120 Budget and the idea is to carry on the cultivation on a much wider area. The total anticipated revenue in 1120 is about Rs. 69,000. If the operation proves successfull, even at this stage this undertaking is going to give us a good return.

Out of the present allotment of Rs. 43,000 ,Rs. 11,000 is for works of a permanent nature. The importance of this industry will be much more appreciated when I tell you that some of the existing contractors who had undertaken the supply of salt have failed to supply the quantity contracted for due to transport and other difficulties. The necessity for our being self-supporting so far as salt is concerned will, in the circumstances, be easily realised by the Members. If the experiment proves sucessful the idea of the Government is to allow private parties to undertake the manufacture, subject to certain stipulated conditions.

Mr. A. B. Selam *(Mattancheri):* What about the defaulted conditions?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Action will be taken against them.

Mr. A. B. Selam *:(Mattancheri):* It is beyond their control: how will you take action?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Those are all matters of datail.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Issa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Which is the place selected?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Malipuram.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, the cut motion standing in my name is to condemn the present Excise policy of the Government but as I am anxious to see that some cuts in the next head—Law and Justice—are reached and the subject matter of the cut is given a fitting consideration than can be had on the discussion of a cut-motion, I do not now propose to move it now.

Demand under 8. Excise put and carried

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